

Bin Laden, and overthrown the Taliban regime that supported them. If there was justice to be had surely, we have found it.

Afghanistan has been embroiled in conflict since 1979 and there is no sign of an end to this conflict. The future stability of Afghanistan is, of course, an ideal we all wish for but with Americans deployed so far away from their homes and families, with our troop presence at an all-time high, and with the insurgency still on-going, we need to reassess why, 10 years later, we are still fighting a costly war with no victory or stability in sight.

We have spent approximately half a trillion dollars in our war in Afghanistan. It is, therefore, past time that we remember what we've learned in the past: that fighting a war against a nationalistic guerilla organization takes more than technological superiority and force of numbers. Imagine what this resource could do on our homeland.

Imagine how many schools, roads, and hospitals half a trillion dollars could build in our own country. Imagine how many hungry kids we could feed or how many of our sick we could treat. Half a trillion dollars could stamp out poverty in places like Philadelphia, Detroit, Memphis, and my hometown of Chicago.

It is perplexing to me, then, why some people would rather spend half a trillion dollars on an unwinnable war abroad rather than on solutions to problems here at home.

I sincerely hope that the Afghan people get to enjoy the benefits of living in a free and prosperous society. They should be free to pursue the education or livelihood of their choosing. I have great respect for our foreign policy and the fact that we care so deeply about the freedoms of those abroad but now is the time we need to be ensuring the economic freedoms of our citizens here at home.

Now is the time that we must refocus on our own country and reinvest in our people and their future. Not tomorrow, not next year, but now! Our rates of unemployment and poverty, if left neglected, will only further divide a nation whose principles serve to inspire the world.

The battles we should be fighting are America's war on poverty and our still-to-be-seen war against unemployment. There is terror here at home, the terror that families face when faced with the question of how they are going to pay their bills or feed their children—the terror and anxieties our citizens feel because they believe their government will simply abandon them. Once again, Mr. Speaker, that is the war we should be fighting and the one that, if we come together, I believe we can win.

IN HONOR OF REV. RICHARD
NANCE, JR.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rev. Richard Nance, Jr., whose leadership and social activism over the past 60 years provided inspiration for friends and colleagues alike. Rev. Nance served as the interim pastor of Antioch Baptist Church of San Jose and the First Baptist Church of Pacific Grove.

Richard was the fifth of eight children and was born and raised in South Carolina. Richard had long been involved with the ministries and at the age of twelve joined the White Plains Baptist Church in Laurens, South Carolina. He reported to Ft. Bragg in 1943 to serve in active duty in the army as a telephone and telegraph lineman with the 448th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion.

After serving in the army, Richard was licensed to preach in 1945. He was ordained in 1949 and pastored three rural churches in Laurens and Spartanburg Counties in South Carolina. He attended Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina and received his BA in May 1950 followed by a BA of Divinity in 1953. Richard then attended Berkeley Baptist Divinity School and earned a Masters there in 1956. In June 1956, Rev. Nance willingly accepted the call to serve as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pacific Grove and continued to serve passionately there until 1992.

Throughout his career, Rev. Nance made significant contributions to countless organizations. He served as the President of the Monterey Branch of the NAACP where his leadership allowed the branch to address housing restrictions and business and school hiring practices. Rev. Nance contributed to the efforts of both the Pacific Grove and Monterey Peninsula Ministers Associations as their President and was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

In addition, Rev. Nance was an active director on many boards including those of the Managers of American Baptist Churches of the West, the Pacific Grove Kiwanis, Monterey County Children's Home Society, the Alliance on Aging, The Pacific Grove Library, and the Pacific Grove Police Review Board.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the entire House in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments and contributions that Rev. Richard Nance, Jr. made throughout his bright lifetime. We honor the family that he loved and cherished: his wife Esther Collins Nance, who pre-deceased him, their sons Christopher and Marcus, and daughter Karen Small. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to applaud these significant efforts and honor his memory and to thank God for sharing such a wonderful leader with this community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS
EXCELLENCE YASHAR ALIYEV,
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY
AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of His Excellency Yashar Aliyev, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States.

Soon, Ambassador Aliyev will return to Azerbaijan after the conclusion of a successful tour in Washington. His leadership has been critical to strengthening the friendship between the United States and Azerbaijan, and I want to recognize and thank him for his service.

Before being named Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America by President Ilham Aliyev in October 2006, Ambassador Aliyev served four years as Azerbaijan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. During this time, he was chairman of the Fourth Committee of Special Political and Decolonization of the 60th U.N. General Assembly, vice president of the 59th General Assembly, vice president of the Economic and Social Council, and vice president of the U.N. Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

As Ambassador to the United States, he has worked with great skill and dedication to enhance the bond between the United States and Azerbaijan. To this important end, he has been tremendously successful on several fronts.

Ambassador Aliyev has solidified the strategic partnership between our nations. In recent years, Azerbaijan has participated in initiatives to curb nuclear proliferation, fight international terrorism, and maintain regional security in southwestern Asia. Moreover, it has provided multi-faceted support to U.S. operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Also during his tenure, Ambassador Aliyev has deepened economic ties between the United States and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan supplies oil and gas to the United States and other Western countries, thereby providing vital energy to the global economy. Moreover, American energy companies are participants in a collaborative effort to further develop Azerbaijan's oil and gas reserves in the Caspian Sea.

Of great importance to me, the relationship between my home state of Oklahoma and Azerbaijan has continued to grow under the leadership of Ambassador Aliyev. In recent years, the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan and the Oklahoma National Guard have engaged in joint training exercises and operations through the National Guard State Partnership Program.

Ambassador Aliyev has broadened collaboration between his country and Oklahoma beyond military cooperation. Earlier this year, he visited Oklahoma and met with various elected officials and business leaders. I am confident his visit laid the groundwork for expanding opportunities for Azerbaijan to cooperate with Oklahoma's business community and universities.

It has been an honor to work with Ambassador Aliyev. I hope he will reflect on his time served in Washington with a sense of pride. As a result of his work, the relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan has never been stronger.

In closing, it has been a pleasure to work with Ambassador Aliyev. I thank him for his dedicated service. He will forever be a trusted friend of the United States. I wish him well in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES
NAVY

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the United States Navy